IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3 and 34 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 16, 19, 22, 25-27 and 29-33 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A metal-containing composition ~~substantially comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

(i) at least one water soluble metal compound which forms metal ions when dissolved in water which consists of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of :

zinc, magnesium, copper, selenium, iron, nickel, titanium, vanadium and aluminum compounds,

(ii) at least one metal ion binding, complexing or sequestering agent other than chelate or glutamate selected from the group consisting of ammonium sulphate, ammonium chloride, ammonium phosphate and ammonium citrate,

(iii) at least one acid selected from the group consisting of sulphuric, hydrochloric, phosphoric and citric acids, and

(iv) water

said composition having a pH of less than 3 and an electrolytic potential in excess of 50 millivolts.

2. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein said metallic element is at least one selected from the group consisting of the following mineral metals: copper, magnesium, selenium, iron and zinc.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 which consists of (i) - (iv) as defined in claim 1 apart from any unavoidable impurities.

5. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein (i) is an inorganic salt of at least one selected from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, copper, selenium, iron, nickel, titanium or vanadium.

6. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 5 in which said salt (i) is at least one salt selected from the group consisting of sulphate, chloride and nitrate.

7. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 5 in which said salt (i) is at least one salt selected from the group consisting of ~~a~~ zinc, magnesium, copper, iron and selenium salts.

8. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 7 in which (i) is a sulphate selected from the group consisting of zinc sulphate, magnesium sulphate, iron sulphate and copper sulphate.

9 - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein (ii) is ammonium sulphate.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein (iii) is concentrated sulphuric or hydrochloric acid.

14. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in which (iv) consists essentially of distilled water or entirely of distilled water apart from any unavoidable impurities.

15. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in which the pH value is less than 2.5.

16. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 15 in which the pH value is 2 or less ~~such as in the range of 1 to 2~~.

17. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in which the electrolytic potential is in excess of 100 millivolts.

18. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 17 in which the electrolytic potential is in excess of 200 millivolts.

19. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 18 in which the electrolytic potential is in excess of 300 millivolts ~~and preferably at least 340 millivolts~~.

20. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 19 in which the electrolytic potential is in the range of 340 to 400 millivolts.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of making a composition as claimed in claim 1 comprising dissolving (i) as defined in claim 1 in distilled water, adding (ii) as defined in claim 1 and mixing or allowing to dissolve, then adding (iii) as defined in claim 1 whilst simultaneously monitoring the pH and electrolytic potential of the composition until a required value of each measurement is obtained.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21 in which (i) is ~~as defined in claim 5~~ an inorganic salt of at least one selected from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, copper, selenium, iron, nickel, titanium or vanadium.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 21 in which (ii) is ammonium sulphate.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein (iii) is concentrated sulphuric or hydrochloric acid.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 as a medicament~~ A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ a pathogenic disease or disorder comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 1 to a patient.

26. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a medicament for treating ~~or preventing~~ a pathogenic disease or disorder.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 as~~ A method of treating a patient with an antimicrobial, antiviral, anti-retrovirus, or antifungal formulation comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 1 to the patient.

28. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobial, antiviral, antiretrovirus or antifungal formulation comprising a composition as claimed in claim 1 in conjunction with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient therefor.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1~~ A method for the treatment of water, or predominantly water-containing material with the composition of claim 1.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1~~ A method for the treatment of sewage, industrial or municipal wastes with the composition of claim 1.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1~~ A method for the treatment of foodstuffs with the composition of claim 1 as a disinfectant or bactericide~~, particularly copper containing such compositions~~.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1~~ A method for the preservation of plants, flowers, trees or shrubs employing the composition of claim 1.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 in~~ A method for the treatment of a metal for coating, sealing, plating or otherwise forming an anti-corrosive layer upon a metallic substrate employing the composition of claim 1.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) A composition as claimed in claim 15 which the pH value is in the range of 1 to 2.

36. (New) A composition as claimed in claim 19 in which the electrolytic potential is at least 340mV.